

**Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Personal Protective
Equipment (PPE) / Covered Materials**

April 30, 2021

The responses in this document are correct as of April 30, 2021, and will likely change as the Agency issues new guidance related to PPE. Please continue to monitor Agency Notices for updates.

Table of Contents

General Questions

- *Are the June 30, 2020 Guidance on Procurement of PPE and Covered Materials and the August 26, 2020 Updated Guidance still valid?*
- *What rules govern procurement of PPE now?*
- *Does the rescission have an effective date or is the rescission retroactive?*
- *Can guidance be shared outside the Agency (e.g., with USAID implementing partners (IPs) and other stakeholders)*
- *What is the status of other Executive Orders that may impact the procurement of essential medical supplies, including PPE?*
- *What if I have further questions about this rescission?*

Current Awards

- *How will awards be modified to reflect the rescission of the Guidance on Procurement of PPE and Covered Materials?*

Program-Funded Local Production of PPE

- *Can implementing partners use funds from USAID for the local production of PPE in partner countries?*

Agency Communications about PPE

- *Can USAID's Missions or Washington-based Bureaus or Independent Offices (B/IOs) communicate stories about past distributions of PPE?*
- *Can USAID's Missions or Washington-based B/IOs communicate stories about the production of PPE for local use by USAID-funded programs?*

General Questions

Question: *Are the June 30, 2020 Guidance on Procurement of PPE and Covered Materials and the August 26, 2020 Updated Guidance still valid?*

Answer (April 30, 2021): No. The Guidance on Procurement of PPE and Covered Materials has been rescinded. This also means that any additional implementing guidance, including prior versions of these FAQs, is no longer applicable.

Question: *What rules govern procurement of PPE now?*

Answer (April 30, 2021): Following the rescission of the PPE guidance and a related update to USAID's source and nationality regulations set forth in 22 CFR 228, there are no longer any COVID-19-specific rules governing the use of USAID funds for PPE procurement. USAID and implementing partner staff must follow the source and nationality requirements for procurement of commodities and services in [ADS 310](#) when procuring PPE.

Question: *Does the rescission have an effective date or is the rescission retroactive?*

Answer (April 30, 2021): The rescission is effective as of April 30, 2021. As of that date, USAID and implementing partners may use USAID funds, including previously obligated funding, to procure PPE.

Question: *Can guidance be shared outside the Agency (e.g., with USAID implementing partners (IPs) and other stakeholders)?*

Answer (April 30, 2021): Yes.

Question: *What impact will the various Executive Orders (E.O.s) on supply chain resilience and procurement have on purchases of PPE?*

Answer (April 30, 2021): The Biden-Harris Administration has issued several E.O.s, including E.O. 14005 (Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers, January 21, 2021) and E.O. 14017 (America's Supply Chains, February 24, 2021), whose implementation may impact the purchase of PPE and which are subject to interagency processes at this time. In addition, E.O. 13944 (Ensuring Essential Medicines, Medical Countermeasures, and Critical Inputs are Made in the United States, August 6, 2020) issued by the prior Administration remains in effect. USAID is actively engaged in the interagency process and will communicate any updated policy guidance if needed and as appropriate to reflect future requirements of implementation.

Question: *What if I have further questions about this rescission?*

Answer (April 30, 2021): For any questions not already addressed in the guidance, please send an email to the following inbox: coveredmaterials@usaid.gov.

Current Awards

Question: *How will awards be modified to reflect the rescission of the Guidance on Procurement of PPE and Covered Materials?*

Answer (April 30, 2021):

A) For existing awards that include the PPE-related provision/special contract requirement, Agreement Officers (AOs) and Contracting Officers (COs) will promptly notify partners in writing that there are no longer any categories of PPE for which procurement with USAID funds is restricted by the provision/special contract requirement. AO/COs will remove the provision/special contract requirement from awards at the time of the next award amendment or modification.

B) For all new awards, AO/COs will no longer include the PPE-related provision/special contract requirement.

Program-Funded Local Production of PPE

Question: *Can implementing partners use funds from USAID for the local production of PPE in partner countries?*

Answer (April 30, 2021): Yes. The prior [COVID-19 Task Force Update #44](#) issued on May 7, 2020, still applies. Implementing partners may use funds from USAID to finance the local production of medical-grade and non-medical-grade PPE, including (but not limited to) masks, gowns, face shields, protective eyewear, boot covers, linens, and gloves. This guidance pertains to all USAID programs funded from any appropriation account, including supplemental appropriations. Where feasible, USAID's Bureaus and Independent Offices may also invest in, advise on, or encourage local regulatory authorities to validate manufacturing practices for, or conduct quality-assurance testing on PPE.

Agency Communications about PPE

Question: *Can USAID's Missions or Washington-based B/IOs communicate stories about past distributions of PPE?*

Answer (April 30, 2021): Yes. USAID's Missions and B/IOs may share stories and photos of past PPE deliveries publicly, consistent with guidelines from the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA).

Question: *Can USAID's Missions or Washington-based B/IOs communicate stories about the production of PPE for local use by USAID-funded programs?*

Answer (April 30, 2021): Yes. USAID's Missions and B/IOs can communicate stories and information about the production of PPE for local use by USAID-funded programs, consistent with guidelines from the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA).